

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /001 W
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O 090840Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5479

UNCLAS CALCUTTA 1635

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (HUGHES, DAVID BRUCE)

SUBJ: W/W: DAVID BRUCE HUGHES

REF: STATE 168175

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL WE HAVE ASCERTAINED THAT MR. HUGHES' AUNT MS. KRANERT IS ANALYST IN HOME OFFICE OF METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE CO AT 1 MADISON AVENUE.1 NYC, PHONE: (212) 578-2211.

2. HUGHES NOW REPORTS THEFT OF HIS TAPE RECORDER AND OTHER PROPERTIES WHICH HE IMPORTED INTO INDIA DUTY-FREE AS TOURIST. HE ALLEGES CALCUTTA BRANCH OF INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS (ISKCON), OF WHICH HE IS MEMBER, SUGGESTED HE MISREPRESENT TO GOI AUTHORITIES CIRCUMSTANCES OF THEFT SO AS TO AVOID ISKCON INVOLVEMENT. HUGHES ALLEGES THAT TAPE RECORDER WAS "STOLEN" BY ISKCON AUTHORITIES AT ISCON TEMPLE IN MAYAPUR, WEST BENGAL.

3. CONOFF ADVISED HUGHES THAT HIS DEPARTURE FROM INDIA WITHOUT REEXPORT OF THESE PROPERTIES WOULD ENTAIL APPROX 120 PERCENT DUTY AD VALOREM AND POSSIBLY SIZEABLE FINE. CONOFF VISITED ISKCON REPRESENTATIVES WHO DENIED HUGHES' ALLEGATIONS. WE FORESEE FURTHER EXPENSES HUGHES MAY INCUR IN ADDITION TO 800 DOLS REQUESTED IN CALCUTTA 1543 FOR HIS RETURN TO U.S.

4. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO ASK MS. KRANERT TO WIRE TRANSFER 1000 DOLS (ONE THOUSAND) TO CITIBANK CALCUTTA
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FOR DAVID HUGHES CARE AMCONSUL CALCUTTA.

5. HUGHES ALSO STATES THAT HE HAS ASKED ISKCON NYC,
340 WEST 55TH ST, NY, NY, FOR FUNDS TO REPATRIATE HIM
TO U.S. DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO CONTACT ISKCON NEW YORK.

6. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE WHEN MONEY MAY BE
EXPECTED. POST FORESEES THIS MAY DEVELOP AS SCS REPA-
TRIATION CASE.
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